

February 18, 2011
Professional Development
Notes from Daphne

Dear Teachers:

As a reminder, please see below for February 18th suggested activities. Many of the items you will discuss will likely be a continuation of your discussions from January. There are a couple of items I would like to highlight for clarification and consideration.

- **Grade-Level Survey:** Please complete the entire document electronically and save to your grade-level team thumb drive. Mr. Aucker (Dane) will distribute your drive to you first thing in the morning. Some additional items:
 - Regarding #7: In number one you identify things that are going well and things that are not going well. In number seven you can address ideas you have for making the items in number one better. For example: If in number one you identify that students are tired of Small Moments at the beginning of the year, you may want to think about shifting units or creating new units to keep things fresh. If you have ideas for new units of study, list them. If you want to spend a day in the summer writing a new unit of study, list that too. If in number one you identify that no formal assessment exists, list some suggestions for what assessments should look like. Each grade-level team should discuss and decide the priorities for that specific grade-level. Brainstorm possibilities! Or, if you cannot think of ideas or you need help with ideas, list those too.
 - The area of need section (#9) is designed for teachers to list areas for which professional development support is needed. I am not interested in knowing what supplies you may need for next year. (Although, you can list them in another area at the end of your survey.) Most important to me is making sure you get the support you need to be successful writing teachers, so this area should list things you may be feeling a little uncomfortable with in the classroom. This may include things that are causing you stress like reluctant writers, assessment, establishing student goals, time management, using mentor texts, etc....
- Some other items to consider discussing or discovering:
 - Explore Common Core English Language Arts curriculum maps at <http://commoncore.org> (These are K – 12 English Language Arts curriculums written by teachers that are aligned to the common core standards.)
 - Plan your next unit or work on creating a new unit.
 - Create assessment rubrics or writing checklists.
 - Explore common core sheets to become more familiar with the standards.
 - Begin thinking and recording needed grade-level changes for next year.
 - Further investigate readingandwritingproject.com. Look specifically for:
 - K – 8 Continuum for narrative writing located under **RESOURCES | Assessment**.
 - Writing samples posted under **RESOURCES | Student Writing**

Have a wonderful day!
Daphne

